

REMARKS

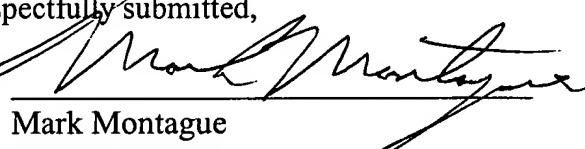
This preliminary amendment amends the application to correct the claim of priority. As set forth in the application as originally filed, the present application claims priority to U.S. provisional application serial number 60/174,646, filed January 5, 2000. However, the present application has a filing date of April 10, 2001, which is more than one year from the filing of the provisional application. Thus, the claim of priority is improper.

This preliminary amendment, along with the attached newly executed declaration, seeks to correct the claim of priority by claiming priority to co-pending U.S. patent application serial number 09/635,330, filed August 9, 2000, which in turn claims priority to the same provisional application. Based upon a careful word-for-word comparison of the "parent" application serial number 09/635,330 ("parent '330 application") and the present application, all of the subject matter presented in the parent '330 application is included in the present application. Thus, a claim of priority to the parent '330 application appears proper. Moreover, no new matter has been added to the present application. Accordingly, it is requested that the change to the claim of priority be accepted.

If any fee is due in connection with this submission, the Commissioner is authorized to charge such fee to Deposit Account No. 03-3415.

Respectfully submitted,

By:


Mark Montague
Reg. No. 36,612

COWAN, LIEBOWITZ & LATMAN, P.C
1133 Avenue of the Americas
New York, New York 10036-6799
(212) 790-9200